SCANLATION BY RPAPO

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CHAPTER 12
THE CHERRY TREE THAT DOESN'T BLOSSOM

AH...
IT'S NICE WEATHER, ISN'T IT?
じーっ
THE WIND 'TIS PLEASANT TOO...
BLOW
UMU
BLOW
'TIS NAUGHT BUT NORMAL ARCHERY PRACTICE...
THE PROBLEM...
BETTER YET, ITSUKI INVITED US OVER...

SFX STARE

JINRAI STAYED HERE.
Evil Eye
IS THAT THOUGH SHE HAD TO STEP AWAY FOR A BIT TO DO SOMETHING...
WHISPER WHISPER
METHINKS IT BE NOT ENTERTAINMENT, BUT STANDING GUARD ON US...
HE NEVER LETS US GO INSIDE.
That
I think so too.
AT MY MASTER'S COMMAND, I AM SIMPLY ENTERTAINING OUR VISITORS.
ART THOU UNHAPPY WITH THAT?
SFX: GLARE
SFX: SLIP AWAY
TEN-KUU?
OH!
UMU.
...EVEN IF WE'RE QUIETLY ADMIRING THE GARDEN..?

THIS IS A CHERRY TREE. AND A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE ONE AT THAT...
IT'S PROBABLY A FEW HUNDRED YEARS OLD.
INCREDIBLE. IT'S BEEN HERE LIKE THIS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
PEDPLE LDNG AGD MAY HAVE PLANTED IT FDR FLOWER VIEWING.
So they could view the flowers from within the garden
WHAM!
I WILL NOT TAKE THIS FROM THEE.
GAH!!
SFX: THROB, THROB
WHAT THOU CALLEST "FLOWER VIEWING", DOES IT NOT IT JUST SEEM TO BE NDTHING BUT A DRINKING PARTY?
THIS CHERRY TREE IS NDT DF THAT SORT.

DOST THOU HAVE SOME SPECIAL ATTACHMENT TO IT?
THEN HOW CANST THOU DECLARE THAT SO ~?
flatly
NO.
DIDST THOU PLANT IT, JINRAI?
.....
SPECIAL ...?...
Ten years ago ...
...HMM
NO BLOSSOMS THIS YEAR EITHER...

HAVING NO FLOWERS NOR LEAVES... WHAT'S WRONG HERE?
AND THOUGH IT DOESN'T LACK FOR LIFE FORCE,
IT DOESN'T WITHER AWAY.
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE "CHERRY TREE THAT DOESN'T BLOSSOM."
.....

I'VE BEEN FERTILIZING IT PROPERLY BUT...
...IS HE THE HEAD OF THE ITSUKI HOUSE THESE DAYS...?
Such a waste for it not to bloom.
...I'M SORRY IT BOTHERS YOU, SIR... BUT THIS TREE WILL NOT BLOOM.
IT HAS BEEN SLEEPING SINCE LONG, LONG AGO.
THAT PERSON
FELL INTO AN ETERNAL SLEEP.

FATHER
I FOUND YOU IN SUCH A PLACE AS THIS.
I SAID THAT, BUT THERE'S PROBABLY NO WAY HE COULD HEAR MY VOICE ANYWAY.
WON'T YOU BE WITH HER FROM NOW ON?
SO HELP UNPACK, OKAY?
SHE'S SUCH A CUTE GRAND-DAUGHTER
IF IT'S WATCHING KANADE I'D LOVE TO DO IT
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU HELP ME UN-PACKING FROM MY MOVE HERE?
There's lots of luggage.
WELL, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
...HOW STRANGE
FOR A DAUGHTER TO BE BORN INTO THIS FAMILY SINCE 'THAT'?
I DON'T REMEMBER EVEN THAT.
SINCE 'THAT' HOW MANY YEARS... NO, HOW MANY CENTURIES HAVE PASSED?

I HAVE SURELY DIED.
AND YET,
WHEN I REALIZED IT, I WAS LIKE THIS, BENEATH THIS CHERRY TREE.
WHAT'S MORE, I CANNOT MOVE FROM THIS PLACE.
I WONDER WHAT IN THE WORLD
IS THE REASON FOR WHICH I EXIST IN THIS PLACE?
JINRAI...
ON THE OTHER HAND, I CANNOT DISAPPEAR EITHER.
THOUGH IF I AM NEVER TO SEE HER AGAIN,
THEN MY EXISTENCE HAS NO MEANING...

I WONDER... IF THE DAYS AND MONTHS PASS LIKE THIS,
WILL I SOMEDAY BE ABLE TO GO TO THE SAME PLACE THAT PERSON IS?
SOMEDAY TO WHERE THE PRINCESS IS...
PRINCESS,
IT IS DANGEROUS FOR THEE TO SLIP OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE
HURRY UP AND GO BACK...
OH? IT'S OKAY.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HIDING OUT HERE?
JIN-RAI
GUARD ME WELL.

IF I COULD, I'D PREFER THOU WERT IN A SAFE PLACE...
OF COURSE I WILL PROTECT THEE, BUT...
~~ NGH...
!?
THY WISH ...
YOUR ANSWER ?
SHOW ME YOU CAN PROTECT ME NO MATTER WHERE I AM!
AREN'T YOU A TOUGH GUY?

WITH THAT I'M FINE!
GAZING AT MY PRECIOUS CHERRY TREE FROM INSIDE MY ROOM IS A WASTE
THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN TO LOOK AT IT FROM UNDERNEATH ITS BRANCHES.
YOU, TOO, JINRAI. YOU OUGHT TO SLOW DOWN NOW AND THEN, AND RELAX BY THE CHERRY TREE.
CAN'T YOU JUST TAKE A NAP?
BECAUSE I WILL WAKE YOU UP PROPERLY
.....
...SO I WOULD ASK OF THEE.
...PRINCESS?
...EH...
HEY... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WON'T YOU CATCH A COLD SLEEPING THERE?

SFX: SHOCKED
...THAT'S ...UNEXPECTED...
Stare...
THIS CHILD... SHE TALKED TO ME!?
AH, YOU WOKE UP.
THOU...
CANST SEE ME...?
YEP
CAN YOU SEE ME?
SFX: BIG GRIN
AH! IT'S GRANDPA!
He's call-in...
KANADE ...
WHAT MANNER OF THING IS THIS!?
AND... THOU CANST HEAR MY VOICE...
YEP

YE-ES!
SFX RUNNING FOOTSTEPS
WAIT!
YOU... THY NAME?
ITSUKI KANADE!

PRINCESS ...!?
!?
SURPRISE!
!
I COULD MOVE ...!?
HOW ...?

EVEN THOUGH UP TO NOW NOT ONCE HAS SUCH A THING HAPPENED...
BUT HOW DID SHE SEE MY BODY?
BECAUSE SHE SAW MY BODY...?
KANADE ...WAS IT?
WHY TO THAT CHILD...
SHE HAD THE PRINCESS' LOOKS...
BECAUSE SHE'S HIS GRAND-CHILD...?
... ... JIN-RAI ...
SHE WAS A BIT...
LIKE THE PRIN-CESS, BUT...
TROT
HEY...
I THOUGHT ...
WHAT IS O-NII-CHAN'S NAME?
TROT

I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID! PRINCESS WASN'T THIS NOISY.
.....
TROT
TROT
YOU KNOW... GRANDPA SAYS HE CAN'T SEE YOU, JINRAI.
WHY IS THAT?
SOMEHOW, SEPARATED FROM THE CHERRY TREE, IT'S LIKE I'VE BECOME FREE TO MOVE AROUND THE ESTATE GROUNDS, AND YET...
WHY DOES SHE FOLLOW ME AROUND?
I HAVE NO IDEA...
SFX: SLIP AND FALL
HEY, HEY, WHY?
SHE WANTS TO ASK ME QUESTIONS.
SFX: ITCHING TO DO SOMETHING
FLAP FLAP...
.....
FUN YA!
HEY!
SFX: NOTHING THERE

SFX: GET UP
...WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I CAN'T TOUCH JINRAI?
WHAT THE!?
SHE WANTS TO PLAY WITH ME!?
YEAH... THEN I GUESS WE CAN'T PLAY TAG.
I can't touch you...
.....
...BECAUSE I'M A GHOST...
THERE YOU GO!
WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I DOING..?
YOU CAN'T BE PICKY.
Grrm
Grrm
I'VE MADE YOU FOOD!
YES!

SFX: WHISH
JIN-RAI!?
turn turn
!?
.....
WHERE'D YOU GO?
JUST BECAUSE SHE CAN SEE ME
DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO HANG AROUND WITH HER...
SFX: SHOCK
WAA AAH!
JIN-RAI...
....
WAA...

SFX HIGH PITCHED SQUEAL
WHY'S SHE CRYING ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
JI..
JIN-RAI
Uee
SFX APPEAR
JIN-RAI'S DIED...
I HAVEN'T DIED!
I'M ALREADY A GHOST!
Huh?
IT'S YOU, JINRAI ...
CRAP! JUST LIKE THAT...
I'M GLAD.
I FOUND YOU...
EHEHE

THOU ART A STRANGE KID...
I'M NOT 'THOU', I'M KANADE!!
SFX: POUTING, PUFFING UP CHEEKS
THY WISH...
WHAT'S "THAI-WISH"?
!
NO... 'TIS BUT NAUGHT
THOU DOST NOT MIND IF I CALL THEE KANADE!?
NOT AT ALL!
SO LIKE HER ON THE OUTSIDE... BUT ON THE INSIDE SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
I WILL SURELY GO CRAZY ...
THOUGH THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.

WHY IS IT THAT SOMETIMES
JIN-RAI!
I SEE KANADE AND THE PRINCESS ONE OVER THE OTHER?
COULD WE GO READ A PICTURE BOOK BY YOUR CHERRY TREE?
DO AS THOU MAYEST WISH.
YEAH!

I NEED NOT BE CONCERNED WITH THIS.
...BUT...
IN ANY CASE, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO HERE.
?
THEN... I SUPPOSE I COULD STAY WITH HER A LITTLE BIT.
Phew
HEY, JINRAI. HOW COME THIS CHERRY TREE DOESN'T BLOSSOM?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SPRING?
THIS TREE IS SLEEPING.
ONCE IT AWAKES IT WILL PROBABLY BLOOM.
IN THE CASTLE GARDEN THEY'RE ALREADY BLOOMING.
Grandpa told me
WON'T THEY BE PRETTY?
IF THEY'RE THE CASTLE CHERRY TREES, THEY MUST BE SPLENDID.
.....
THEY WERE PRINCESS' FAVORITE FLOWER.

JINRAI, DO YOU LIKE LOOKING AT CHERRY BLOSSOMS?
AAH
HMM...
THAT'S RIGHT...
THE CASTLE CHERRY TREES...?
?
JINRAI? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
POOF
.....
SFX ZAP!
!
...SO I CAN'T LEAVE THE GROUNDS AFTER ALL...?
...JUST LIKE A CAGED BIRD...

...I THINK NOT. IT IS SOMETHING APART.
AM I BEING MADE TO CARE ABOUT A KID...?
YOU CAN'T LEAVE HERE EITHER?
EITHER?
GRANDPA TELLS ME I CAN'T LEAVE HERE BY MYSELF!
THING, RIGHT?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE GOT SOMETHING NICE TO SHOW YOU!!
HEY!
NO... DON'T BOTHER...
I'LL GO AND BRING IT TO SHOW YOU!!
SFX: RUNNING
ZZZZ!
AH, OY...
...HAVING SUCH ENERGY SHE IS MUCH LIKE THE PRINCESS...
BECAUSE IT'S IN HER BLOOD?
STRUTTING ALL ALONE?
HM? DIDN'T SHE JUST GO TO THE MAIN BUILDING?
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER OVER BY THE STORE HOUSE...
HUH?

IT'S LIKE I'VE COME TO BE ABLE TO SENSE WHERE KANADE IS...
BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT.
...NGH ...
SHE ISN'T THE PRINCESS, SO WHY AM I DRAWN TO HER!?
EVEN CONTINUING TO HAVE THESE FEELINGS, CAN I NOT!?
LOOK, LOOK!
RUN
RUN
SFX: CHIRIN (BELLS)
LOOK! AREN'T THEY PRETTY?

THEY ARE MY TREASURE!
SO PROTECT THESE,
DON'T TOUCH THEM!!
SFX STARTLED
THOSE BELONG TO THE PRIN-CESS...
EH...

YOU AREN'T ...
SFX: TEARS
I'M... SOR
DRIP
DRIP
.....RY ...
AH...
SFX: DASH
.....
RUN RUN

WHAT AM I... DOING ...?
EVEN SO, I SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED
THAT'S RIGHT... KANADE ISN'T THE PRINCESS... EVEN IF SHE RESEMBLES HER...
I WILL NEVER SEE THE PRINCESS AGAIN...
EVEN SO, WHY
DO I EXIST AT THE PRESENT TIME...!?
KA-NA-DE ...
SHE ISN'T HERE EITHER ...?
NOR WAS SHE IN THE CELLAR
CONFUSED
NO WAY. HAS SHE GONE OUTSIDE ALONE!? A LITTLE CHILD LIKE HER...

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO KANADE...
POLICE... NO. I'LL LOOK IN THE HOUSE ONE MORE TIME.
SHE'S DISAPPEARED?
...IT'S TRUE.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER IN THE HOUSE.
WHERE IN THE WORLD ...?
!!
PERHAPS SHE FLEW OFF AS SHE WAS!?
I AM TO BLAME FOR THIS!!
SURPRISE
...NGH
SHE'S OUTSIDE!
I CAN FEEL HER PRESENCE
AND YET, SO FAR AWAY...
SFX: IMPACT
CRAP...

CRAP...
WHY CAN'T I LEAVE...?
I CANNOT LEAVE, NOT EVEN TO SEARCH FOR A CHILD.
BZZL
AM I WITHOUT POWER...?
ONCE MORE!
WILL IT BE SAID I CANNOT PROTECT HER...!?

SFX: BUZZ, BUZZ...
MY SPIRITUAL POWER IS BEING CUT OFF.
BUZZ!!
GUH.
GUH.
GRA...
IF I FORCE MYSELF PAST, THE BODY OF MY SPIRIT MAY BE DESTROYED!
AND YET,
...NGH!
RUN RUN
JIN-RAI...!
UU...

SFX: BZZT, CRACKLE
AR
ARRR
ARR
RGH!
CRASH!

DEFI-
NITE-
LY...
NOT.
HUFF
HUFF
...SUCH
FEELINGS
TAP
WERE
ENOUGH
FOR
ONCE.
I WILL
PROTECT
THEE
THIS
TIME!